

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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Agriculture

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## HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2015

### IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY - (# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

#### CALIFORNIA

Sage	Light Amber	\$1.60
Valley	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00

#### DAKOTAS

Alfalfa	White	\$1.75
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.60
Clover	White	\$1.75
Canola	White	\$1.75
Star Thistle	White	\$1.75
Western	White	\$1.70

#### FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.40	-	\$1.60
Palmetto	Light Amber	\$1.60		
Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$1.60		
Wildflowers	Extra Light Amber	\$2.20		
Wildflowers	Light Amber	\$1.85		

#### GEORGIA

Cotton	Light Amber	\$1.75
Wildflowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75

#### IOWA

Clover	White	\$1.80
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#### LOUISIANA

Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.75
Wildflowers	Light Amber	\$1.75

#### MICHIGAN

Basswood	White	\$2.00
Star Thistle	Light Amber	\$2.00

#### MINNESOTA

Canola	White	\$1.75
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#### MONTANA

Alfalfa	White	\$1.75
Canola	White	\$1.75

#### MISSISSIPPI

Soybean	Light Amber	\$1.81
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#### NEBRASKA

Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75
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#### OREGON

Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.60
Wildflowers	Light Amber	\$1.60

#### TEXAS

Western	White	\$1.70
WASHINGTON		
Buck wheat	Dark	\$1.60
Canola	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00
Mint	Dark	\$1.65 - \$1.75
WYOMING		
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.70
Clover	White	\$1.75

Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Canola	White	\$1.32	-	\$1.45
Clover	White	\$1.45		

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

#### ARGENTINA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.65	-	\$1.78
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.65	-	\$1.88
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.55	-	\$1.75

#### BRAZIL

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.54
ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.65 - \$1.86
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.52 - \$1.62
ORGANIC	Dark	\$1.57

#### INDIA

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.43	-	\$1.70
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.31	-	\$1.59
Mustard	Light Amber	\$1.50		

#### VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.36	-	\$1.56
Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$1.50		

#### UKRAINE

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.61	-	\$1.70
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.22	-	\$1.54
Sunflower	Light Amber	\$1.25		

**COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER, 2015**

**APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV):** Just like November, December was warmer than average and on a couple days, broke record highs. Many early spring blooming plants, like winter jasmine, camellia, and hellebore began to bloom. In lower elevations a few cherry trees bloomed sporadically. Beekeepers continued to provide supplemental feeding as a few colonies were reported to doing cleansing flights, which is unusual during this time of year. Beekeepers are busy with maintenance of equipment or attending industry meetings.

**ALABAMA:** No report issued.

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures in Arizona were at below normal levels for the first week of December, at above normal levels the second week of December, and again at below normal levels for the second half of the month. The range statewide in temperatures for the month was a high of 85 degrees Fahrenheit in Sahuarita to a low of 15 degrees below zero Fahrenheit at Grand Canyon.

Arizona received precipitation at zero of the 50 reporting stations during the first week of December. For the remainder of the month, Arizona received precipitation at 36, 41 and 27 of the 50 reporting stations, respectively. 23 of the 50 reporting stations were at or above normal precipitation levels for the year.

The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state were desert plant bloom, citrus and cantaloupes.

Bee activity in the state was limited during the month of December. Beekeepers have been or are continuing to make preparations to move colonies to other locations, primarily California, for pollination of nut and fruit trees. Demand for honey remains good.

**ARKANSAS:** No report issued.

**CALIFORNIA:** Temperatures for the week averaged 1 to 3 degrees above normal in the north and 1 to 3 degrees below normal in the east and south. Lows reached single digits in the mountains, 20s in the east, and 40s in the central valley and south coast. High temperatures were mostly 40s in the north, 50s in the central region, and 60s in the south.

The heaviest precipitation fell early in the week. Locations in the valleys and along the coast reported up to 2 inches of rain. Some locations, especially in the northern Sierra foothills, received 4 to 5 inches of rain. The lightest rains fell across the interior deserts, which still tallied over a quarter inch of rain for the week. At higher elevations, the precipitation fell mostly as snow but even lower elevation mountain ranges in the southern parts of the State received some snowfall. The heaviest snow fell across the far northern mountains and the northern Sierras, where some locations received 5 to 6 feet of snow. In general, 1 to 3 feet of new snowfall was common.

Some snow fell over a few of the lower elevations across the north and in some of the valleys in the Sierra range, with accumulations from 6 to 8 inches. The heaviest snow packs existed along the main ridge of the Sierras, where snow depths in places were approaching 8 feet and possibly exceeding 12 feet. Snow cover was almost nonexistent west of the Sierras, with the exception of some of the mountain ridges bordering the southern and northwestern rims of the Central Valley.

Beekeepers continue to monitor their colonies and are feeding when necessary as the bees prepare for the almond pollination that should begin in mid-February.

**FLORIDA:** The weather was much warmer than normal for most of the state. Precipitation was about normal in most areas, but parts of southern and southeastern Florida experienced very heavy rains early in the month. Bee health was considered to be about normal with some problems with varroa mites and a general lack of good nutrition being reported. Maple was blooming by early in the month, primarily between the St. John's River and Lake Okeechobee. A few wildflowers were about the only other food source. Willow was expected to begin blooming by early January. Supplemental feeding was necessary as the warm weather caused the bees to fly too much and use too much energy trying to gather the sparse supplies of food. Many beekeepers were still making preparations for the almond pollination season in California early next year. Honey production was essentially zero, with very light stored supplies of honey. Demand remains good, but competition from other honey sources, including imported honey, continues to exert pressure on Florida honey prices.

**GEORGIA:** December was a fairly warm month as compared to most other years. The end of the month had plenty of rain and flooding in many areas of Central and North Georgia. The bees are reported to be in good shape heading into the coldest winter months and the hives have been prepared and the bees are hunkering down until the weather warms up and they can get out and work again. Demand remains very strong and exceeds supplies.

**IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH:** During the month of December temperatures were below normal over Eastern Utah and Western areas of Colorado. Most reporting locations in Idaho, Eastern Colorado and Western Utah had above normal temperatures for the month of December, according to the National Weather Service. During the same period, precipitation was below normal around Idaho Falls, Idaho and Pocatello, Idaho along with Eastern areas of Utah and Southeast areas of Colorado. Above normal precipitation was recorded over most other areas of Idaho, Utah and Colorado during the month of December. A lot of the precipitation was in the form of snow during the month of December in the three State area.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Colorado continues to have normal moisture conditions across most areas of the State in December. Overall drought conditions have improved during the month of December in both Utah and Idaho. Normal moisture conditions are present in a growing area of both Southeastern Utah and Idaho. The rest of Utah ranges from abnormally dry to severe going from east to west across the State. The worst drought conditions in Utah in December continues to be in the Northwest part of Utah, west of the Great Salt Lake. The rest of Idaho has drought conditions that range from abnormally dry to severe drought conditions. The worst drought conditions are located in the Northern Panhandle areas of Idaho where the conditions are still severe.

Large commercial beekeepers from Idaho, Utah and Colorado that relocated their bee colonies to Southern States, or directly to areas near the almond farms of California, continued to feed additional honey stores, sugar syrup, corn syrup or a blend on an as needed basis during the month of December. There has also been some supplemental feeding of pollen patties on an as needed basis as well. Commercial beekeepers are attempting to keep their bees in top condition for quality grading of hives prior to the almond pollination. At this point the active bees that have traveled to Southern Locations or California are looking healthy. Many midsize beekeepers who

elected to remain in Idaho, Utah or Colorado for the entire winter have their hives wrapped up for the winter. When overwintering in the Mountain States, waiting out the winter has always brought apprehension the following spring when reopening the hives. Commercial beekeepers who have stored some of their bees in potato sheds will start taking bees out around the middle of January for the trip to California almond fields.

There have been reports of minimal bee colony losses during the month of December from many of the larger commercial size bee operations. A few beekeepers have what they consider minor losses in the range of 5 percent. While many beekeepers have seen a bit larger losses in the range of 15 to 20 percent. In some cases, even larger percentage losses have been reported. A couple of the major problems for these extreme losses seem to be the persistence of excess varroa mites and queen problems. Both varroa mites and queen problems have been harder problems to correct recently. There really has not been any good explanation of what has caused specific issues with either the loss of queens or the steady increase in the varroa mite populations. Hive beetles have been a problem in some bee colonies this fall according to some hobbyist beekeepers in Colorado.

Some of the larger commercial beekeepers are concerned about the viability of their bees sent to California and hope that mite treatments applied will help secure their success in the almond fields. In December there has seemed to be further clarification on contract prices for pollination services in the California almond fields. With a range in price from \$170.00 to \$205.00 the mostly price seems to be firming up at this time in the \$175.00 to \$185.00 range for an 8 to 10 frame hive. Any further bee losses in the United States could cause a shortage of available bees for pollination services, thereby potentially changing the final prices received by beekeepers.

With the fall supplemental feeding of commercial hives completed, beekeepers have had the opportunity to focus on cleaning up, painting and repair/maintenance of frames, supers, bottoms and covers.

Demand for domestic honey in December from the States of Idaho, Utah and Colorado is very good despite a trend towards lower prices during the past few months. According to commercial beekeepers, the current wholesale price for good white domestic honey from Idaho, Colorado and Utah currently varies from \$1.70 to \$1.85 per pound with an occasional higher and lower price being received. Many of the higher prices were contracted or committed earlier in the fall of 2015. Competition from imported honey continues to be driven by the higher value of the U.S. Dollar in relationship with other currencies. Imported honey is creating competition with Idaho, Utah and Colorado honey by increasing supplies at lower prices. Some beekeepers have decided not to sell their 2015 honey crop in hopes that there will be higher prices in early 2016. Retail prices for wildflower or clover honey in Idaho, Utah and Colorado range from \$3.36 to \$7.33 per pound depending upon container and type, with occasional higher and lower prices. Specialty retail honey, whether it was gourmet, organic and creamed, were bringing higher prices in Idaho, Utah and Colorado. Capping wax whether light or dark seems to be in short supply at the moment, with wholesale prices ranging from: \$4.25 to \$4.50 per pound depending upon quality and quantity.

ILLINOIS: The weather for December has been mild overall with warm temperatures, with a quite a bit of rain. Beekeepers have stopped feeding their bees. The bees are ready for winter. Beekeepers are going to meetings, checking and repairing equipment and preparing to order packages in the new year from southern package producers. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Above normal temperatures and precipitation continued across the region. Warm weather lasted the month, as very little cool temperatures were recorded. Precipitation was very much above normal as December rainfall broke record numbers, particularly toward the end of the month. Areas of St Louis region received record amounts of rainfall along the Missouri, Mississippi and Meramec Rivers, and numerous creeks and streams. Also parts of southern Missouri received high amounts as the system moved down state.

Beekeepers were busy attending meeting, conferences, preparing for year beginning bee classes. Most have finished winterizing their bees. There was some activity outside the hive due to monthly long warm weather conditions. The demand for honey continues to remain strong.

INDIANA: The weather for December has been very mild with record rainfall. Temperatures were warm enough that bees took cleansing flights. Some Beekeepers report their bees in poor condition, others report their bees in good condition. Beekeepers stopped supplemental feeding of their bees. Beekeepers are going to meetings and checking and repairing equipment. Demand for honey is good and demand exceeded supply at the retail level and demand was fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: No report issued.

LOUISIANA: Hives appear to be waking up as increased brood production seen in several hives. The warm weather in late December and early January may have spurred them on. Beekeepers are monitoring the hive's food reserves. Many expect a good spring honey flow if the remainder of the winter is mild. Supplemental feeding via pollen patties has been initiated with concomitant monitoring and application of carbohydrates as necessary. Many are hoping for a better spring than the past three years.

MICHIGAN: For those commercial beekeepers overwintering in Florida, units appear in great condition. Early willow, oak and maple pollen are beginning to come in which should ramp up population growth. Bee shipments to California for almond pollination will begin mid-January. Demand has strengthened due to the possibility of limited pollination days during peak almond bloom February 15 – March 1. Pricing has held at the spring 2015 prices. Wholesale prices (by the semi-load) have dropped to \$1.50-1.60 per pound versus \$1.50-1.85 in the fall of 2014. Some of the largest buyers/packers have stated that demand going into winter has remained strong which should help stabilize prices. One factor that has adversely affected pricing has been a surplus of honey in the Dakotas from 2014 has recently been brought to the market for cash flow purposes, along with a slimmer summer season 2015 that prompted producers to market honey much quicker have both had an adverse effect on wholesale prices.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were much above normal over the entire State during the month of December, according to the National Weather Service. Many reporting locations were as much as 11 to 13 degrees above normal for December. Precipitation was also above normal across the entire State during the same period. Some of the precipitation early in the month was in the liquid form, but a majority

of the late month precipitation was in the form of snow. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the above normal moisture has moved the State back to near normal moisture conditions across the entire State of Minnesota.

Large commercial beekeepers from Minnesota have now relocated their bee colonies to Southern States, Climate Controlled Potato Sheds in Idaho, or directly sited to areas near the almond farms of California. Many of the midsize beekeepers who elected to remain in Minnesota for the winter have their hives wrapped up for the winter. When overwintering in Minnesota, waiting out the winter has always brought apprehension the following spring when reopening the hives. With the problems that have plagued the State this fall regarding varroa mite issues, reopening hives next spring will bring on added hope that the treatment remedies utilized this fall will have been adequate to protect their bees.

Reports of high bee colonies losses has continued during the month of December from all size of bee operations. A few beekeepers have what they consider minor losses in the range of 22 percent. While many beekeepers large and small have seen losses this fall in the range of 40 to 50 percent. In some cases, even larger percentage losses have been reported. A couple of the major problems for these extreme losses seem to be the persistence of excess varroa mites and queen problems. Some of the larger commercial beekeepers are concerned about the viability of their bees sent to California and hope that mite treatments applied will help secure their success in the almond fields. With contract prices in the California Almond fields hovering in the \$170.00 to \$205.00 range for an 8 to 10 frame hive, any further bee losses could be economically hard for beekeepers. With the fall supplemental feeding of commercial hives completed, beekeepers have had the opportunity to focus on painting and repair and maintenance of frames, supers, bottoms and covers.

Overall demand remains very strong for domestic Minnesota honey despite a trend towards lower wholesale prices in the past few months. According to commercial beekeepers, the current wholesale price for good white domestic honey in Minnesota currently ranges from \$1.70 to \$1.89 per pound with occasional lower prices being received. Many of the higher prices were contracted or committed earlier in the Fall of 2015. Competition from imported honey continues to be driven by the higher value of the U.S. Dollar in relationship with other currencies. Imported honey is creating competition with Minnesota honey by increasing supplies at lower prices. Some beekeepers have decided not to sell their 2015 honey crop in hopes that there will be higher prices in early 2016. Retail prices for wildflower or basswood honey in Minnesota range from \$4.75 to \$7.99 per pound depending upon container and type, with occasional higher and lower prices. Specialty retail honey, whether it was gourmet, organic and creamed, were bringing higher prices in Minnesota depending upon container and type.

MISSISSIPPI: Most of the beekeepers report the bees and hives are prepared for the winter months ahead. Plenty of rain from December and blasts of cold weather hit the state late in the month. Demand exceeds available supplies.

MONTANA: No report issued.

NEW ENGLAND: In New England overall, the month of December exhibited mild, seasonal temperatures. This weather pattern offered periodic rain and a tiny bit of snowfall with only measureable snowfall in high level terrain. Early December weather was erratic with on and off cold and mild weather, whereby the bees early on had a chance to reorganize themselves, haul out the dead and go on cleansing flights. Bees are pretty much in cluster conditions and flying on warmer days. Nectar and pollen sources have all but ended with just a few late pollen sources, amazingly bringing some bright orange pollen in presumably from fall aster, heath, mum blossoms, perennial bachelor buttons and Johnny jump ups. Rapidly colder conditions have finished all floral food sources for this season. Over wintering procedures entails installing mouse guards, entrance reducers and insulation boards between inner and outer covers and/or boards under the bottom screens to ensure proper ventilation. In New England, beekeepers have closed up their hives for the winter. Bees are snuggled in their hives but reportedly the clusters are smaller than desired. Keepers report that as much as 70% of colonies are light in stores with just enough to fill the brood chambers. Low stores coupled with the usual cold, harsh weather of winter in the future will surely mean a high mortality rate for the over wintered population. As needed, in Northern New England, colonies are being feed with fondant, protein patties, and sugar candy. In Southern New England where the air temperatures have remained consistently over 50 degrees, have spot feed sugar water syrup, high fructose corn syrup while using frame feeders in order to add to the stored food that was left after surplus honey was drawn off. In New England, the average consumption is 60 lbs. of honey throughout the winter. Steady cold weather lowers the rate at which honeybees consume honey stores. If the weather pattern stays cold, it won't hurt the bees as long as the hives have good ventilation. In New England, hives normally lose 5 to 10% of their population due to winter related issues. Cold weather will not adversely affect bees as much as condensation will. Colonies should be ventilated to abate this problem. The warm weather exhibited in November and throughout December has created heavy brood rearing beyond normal and will most likely create a need to feed early in January and February. All of New England has experienced mild weather this fall and a very late frost. This New England warming translates to affecting plant nectar levels and whether bees will have enough winter food. Late hatching brood will directly contribute to increased consumption of winter honey reserves. November and December have been very mild so all we have left is January and February as winter months. This year's honey stores on brood frames are very small although in many cases large quantities of pollen are found. This will likely contribute to creating a greater winter loss as many colonies are light and their winter bees were not developed under the best of conditions.

Many keepers are seriously concerned about viral infections in queens coupled with a stronger disease laden varroa mite population that could carry over to next season with another season of queen problems especially underperforming weak queens.

Harvesting and extracting honey is virtually completed. This year's honey crop figures have not been finalized as some locations have exhibited very low production numbers. Reportedly some yields are half what they usually are. Keepers are giving estimates at 30 to 35 lbs. per colony verses estimates from keepers that experienced a good honey fall flow with estimates of 50 lbs. per colony.

The Holiday Season is a joyous time of the year and yet a nervous time for beekeepers as the judgment day is now at hand for the good, bad and ugly practices and methods of beekeeping come due. Wintering success starts in late summer. Early loss of population will make the colony susceptible to chill and even starvation because they cannot move to the food when winter temperatures drop. The greater longevity of winter bees is mostly due to a storage protein in the bee's stomach called vitellogenin. The major keys to winter hive survival seem to be the following as reported by leading beekeepers; reduce the colony down to size the remaining bees can handle, which includes combining colonies, this may involve stacking weak colonies over stronger ones separated with a double screen so that the heat is being shared that is generated by the stronger hive, - this helps them conserve heat. Secondly, feed them and make the food available to the cluster. Additionally, a high carbohydrate (sugar) protein supplement patty or candy board placed

near the cluster can provide the energy needed to keep the cluster warm and the small amount of protein in the mix helps extend the life of the bees in the cluster, - protein equals longevity.

In this particular year in New England, the warmer than normal temperatures could lead to colonies consuming their honey stores faster than expected thus leading to starvation when the colder temperatures do return.

Honey sales have been excellent going into the holiday season. Keepers have crafted many products from the fruits of their hives to sell for the holiday season primarily as stocking stuffers such as decorative honey decanters, candles, creams, lip balms and many edible holiday treats. The holiday season brings on an increase demand at the farmer's markets, local roadside stands and at winter festivals as it has been excellent and continues to remain strong. Honey sales remain very good and continue to grow as supplies of new crop, locally produced honey are being offered. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$10.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$18.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$215.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 to \$2.80 per pound, mostly \$2.60 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is \$14.00 to \$17.00 mostly \$16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is \$26.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$28.00 per quart. Current wholesale prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 11lb block units at \$5.50 to \$5.75 mostly \$5.50 and for 50lb block units at \$4.50 to \$5.00 mostly \$4.75. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.20 to \$3.50 mostly \$3.50 for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Retail white and cleaned beeswax prices reported are \$16.00 to \$20.00 per pound, mostly \$18.00 per pound or \$1.50 per ounce. Reportedly, the per-capita honey consumption in the United States is 1.31 pounds.

NEW YORK: There was a good fall flow, including both pollen and goldenrod nectar, which should leave hives well-stocked for overwintering. The mild December temperatures (warmest on record) have been great for bees, after the two previous cold winters. Hives that may have been a little light going into winter would have had ample warm weather for beekeepers to add supplemental feeding supplies for much of the winter. Thus far, we are looking at a good survival rate and less need for replacement bees generally ordered from the southern states. There is some concern already that the warm winter could cause irregular early tree blossoms followed by freezing conditions that could reduce the early spring pollen/nectar sources essential for spring buildup. Holiday sales were brisk, as customers purchased an array of honey, especially varieties for gift-giving during the Christmas season. Prices have held steady at local levels, although the boom year in Canada and Argentina could impact markets, especially at the wholesale level.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were above normal throughout December. Precipitation for the month was also above normal with statewide soil moisture levels averaging 50 percent adequate and 50 percent surplus the week ending January 02. According to the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council there were no drought advisories in effect in North Carolina.

Mild temperatures allowed bees to forage into late December. Possible pollen sources included dandelion and ornamental evergreen shrubs such as camellias. This was helpful to hives that may have been lacking adequate stores going into winter, but there could be call for concern if the increased activity triggered brood production therefore accelerating food consumption which could be problematic if temperatures dip in January and February. It is important that beekeepers continue to monitor stores by checking the weight of the colonies.

According to apiary inspectors beekeepers that managed pests and nutrition early in the season were in fairly good condition; while those that did not reported losses. The mild temperatures could have increased activity in Varroa mites and small hive beetles that were still present so monitoring frequently using various methods for a cumulative assessment cannot be stressed enough!

Demand for honey was moderate and supply was fairly light, but expected for the time of year. Retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market remained steady at \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: Winter has settled in and beekeepers have moved their bees to winter homes. Bees in the California area are preparing for the upcoming almond crop. With a more normal winter in the Northwest there shouldn't be a rush to get bees from California up the coast to work the various tree fruits. The honey market continues to be depressed in part due to competition from imported honey.

OHIO: Warmer than normal temperatures have had bees flying, actually foraging on too-early blooming apples, dandelions and other early spring flowers. However, with bees able to fly has given beekeepers an opportunity to replenish stores. Late absconding reports are much higher than normal this fall, with entire colonies missing after a couple of extra warm days. Honey prices at farm markets and top shelf stores remain high, but bulk prices are flat to falling. Most prices are lower than one month earlier, and even lower than last year at this time.

OKLAHOMA: Central part of the state report that bees are clustered but thriving. Bees have been getting supplemental feeding due to the cold temperatures. Bees still have winter stores and are mostly closeted. Weather has been cold with ice and snow for most of the month of December.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: December was warmer and wetter than average. There were some small herbaceous flowers producing pollen and nectar, but nothing significant. Beekeepers are reporting losses due to queen failure in November and December, in colonies that were requeened in the spring of 2015 with queens from out of state commercial producers. Some beekeepers are having to feed due to the warm weather since the bees are using up stores faster due to increased foraging activity with little return.

TEXAS: Colonies are reported to be in a mixed state: some are doing okay but are weak; others are strong and well provisioned; and some are somewhere in-between. All but the weakest of the colonies have begun raising brood, and should be ready for the nectar flow in spring. The weakest ones may pull through, yet some beekeepers may merge them. Continued feeding for colonies with sugar water, and some will soon will begin giving pollen patties, so the bees can continue raising brood even during bouts of foul weather. Supply is good, while demand at this time is slow.

WASHINGTON: Winter has settled in the Pacific Northwest. December saw record amounts of precipitation, mostly rain, early in the month This turning to snow later in the month. The rain caused flooding in many areas. Road washouts closed one mountain pass for several weeks. The snow and

colder temperatures helped to moderate the flooding and increase the snow pack critical for summer irrigation in the Northwest. Not much activity with the bees and hives overwintering locally due to cold weather and precipitation.

WISCONSIN: The weather has been good for December with very warm temperatures and adequate rainfall. Beekeepers have prepared for the winter. Beekeepers have finished feeding their bees. Most beekeepers report that their bees are in good condition. Beekeepers are going to meetings, checking and repairing their equipment and preparing for the spring. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

### U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		November 2015	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
<b>COMB &amp; NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -</b>				
Afghanistan	1,322	12,310	0	0
Bahamas, The	2,835	10,740	0	0
Bahrain	24,566	59,629	0	0
Bangladesh	1,000	4,435	0	0
Barbados	45,555	135,088	1,794	10,681
Brazil	4,407	10,696	0	0
Cayman Islands	2,013	6,645	1,465	3,465
China	286,288	702,355	0	0
Guatemala	897	5,341	0	0
Guyana	9,414	45,231	816	7,067
Hong Kong	9,849	33,225	5,581	13,546
India	260,400	910,470	0	0
Indonesia	10,908	26,477	10,908	26,477
Japan	288,171	981,788	7,212	37,800
Korea, South	203,585	1,076,632	1,956	9,384
Kuwait	302,382	740,068	55,340	136,125
Lebanon	780	3,915	0	0
Malaysia	4,901	14,158	209	2,768
Mongolia	5,182	12,578	5,182	12,578
Netherlands Antilles(*)	15,590	97,460	897	5,340
Panama	28,371	153,770	3,589	21,362
Philippines	381,623	929,644	53,292	129,357
Saudi Arabia	776	5,975	327	2,591
Singapore	45,693	148,502	4,757	11,547
Sri Lanka	1,482	3,598	0	0
Taiwan	67,169	120,486	1,873	9,000
United Arab Emirates	251,498	638,693	0	0
Vietnam	1,000	4,901	0	0
Yemen(*)	186,404	480,660	0	0

### NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -

Australia(*)	11,506	47,514	4,361	10,584
Bahamas, The	25,018	117,387	938	5,460
Barbados	9,750	58,970	1,277	7,968
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	2,014	4,889	0	0
Bermuda	41,231	143,250	3,534	19,568
Canada	1,024,227	4,724,574	88,398	464,223
Cayman Islands	1,262	5,291	0	0
Chile	809	12,853	0	0
China	59,753	220,488	3,090	7,500
Dominican Republic	20,302	52,391	0	0
Germany(*)	4,155	13,945	0	0
Guatemala	760	8,814	0	0
Hong Kong	60,989	306,933	544	3,816
India	219,540	595,082	0	0
Italy(*)	8,262	22,920	0	0

Japan	32,069	128,704	390	3,250
Jordan	646	5,000	0	0
Korea, South	337,194	1,479,061	28,424	153,844
Kuwait	8,506	20,646	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,140	2,766	0	0
Mexico	34,265	119,882	9,600	20,240
Mongolia	2,366	5,742	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	12,538	59,330	910	5,676
Oman -----	969	4,350	969	4,350
Pakistan	19,005	135,585	0	0
Panama	408	3,056	0	0
Philippines	59,418	177,678	617	4,219
Qatar	412	4,155	0	0
Saudi Arabia	94,294	245,190	12,644	30,690
Singapore	13,862	72,066	0	0
Taiwan	109	2,514	0	0
Thailand	3,538	24,235	0	0
United Arab Emirates	19,190	73,354	901	5,182
United Kingdom	147	2,590	0	0
Vietnam	171,001	461,026	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4,744,716</b>	<b>16,737,701</b>	<b>311,795</b>	<b>1,185,658</b>

## U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

Year to Date			November 2015		
Quantity	Value	CIF Value	Quantity	Value	CIF Value
Kilograms	Dollars	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars	Dollars

## WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	5,243,675	20,015,713	20,359,915	323,972	1,068,374	1,086,701
Australia(*)	19,490	79,909	80,909	0	0	0
Brazil	673,643	2,611,182	2,718,941	36,895	122,449	133,823
Canada	7,180,872	29,960,667	30,114,996	294,824	1,016,642	1,022,293
Chile	24,414	68,359	69,859	24,414	68,359	69,859
China	802	5,135	5,435	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	6,282	17,612	18,781	0	0	0
France(*)	1,171	13,615	14,087	0	0	0
Germany(*)	836	4,604	4,981	0	0	0
Hungary	504	3,061	3,286	504	3,061	3,286
India	3,841,567	13,123,523	13,487,529	91,039	289,158	302,429
Italy(*)	6,407	58,115	68,648	0	0	0
Mexico	1,788,044	7,335,706	7,391,605	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	14,323	28,645	29,383	0	0	0
Portugal	3,341	5,028	5,922	0	0	0
Romania	18,568	124,712	129,712	0	0	0
Serbia	1,416	9,183	9,755	0	0	0
Spain	4,394	30,990	31,301	0	0	0
Taiwan	211,691	430,313	460,054	20,150	34,875	37,190
Thailand	354,264	945,509	987,009	0	0	0
Ukraine	56,355	178,130	184,634	0	0	0
United Kingdom	3,528	32,265	33,648	0	0	0
Uruguay	604,600	2,198,007	2,217,145	0	0	0
Vietnam	38,400	96,960	101,702	0	0	0

**EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -**

Argentina	16,498,267	62,723,184	64,758,412	1,464,600	4,809,108	4,892,887
Australia(*)	19,500	88,725	89,288	0	0	0
Brazil	723,390	2,586,399	2,701,118	65,238	224,157	232,191
Burma	19,500	59,425	62,689	0	0	0
Canada	355,978	1,707,806	1,715,569	27,735	142,262	143,012
Denmark(*)	3,660	23,620	24,606	0	0	0
France(*)	9,949	61,694	63,406	305	5,824	5,972
India	14,899,028	48,323,768	50,081,070	836,700	2,572,678	2,697,965
Indonesia	19,470	64,572	67,495	0	0	0
Italy(*)	26,395	76,872	83,439	5,870	23,876	26,800
Japan	10	2,790	2,970	0	0	0
Mexico	2,595,285	10,067,668	10,188,214	36,765	127,646	129,936
New Zealand(*)	200,112	557,929	600,295	4,062	65,371	70,871
Pakistan	112,546	315,188	317,338	37,322	104,521	105,301
Portugal	219	2,408	2,608	0	0	0
Spain	1,489	9,218	9,311	0	0	0
Taiwan	1,723,720	4,158,090	4,285,790	0	0	0
Thailand	2,690,764	7,131,045	7,315,579	204,160	545,664	550,878
Ukraine	9,385,620	30,276,412	31,810,606	455,866	1,349,628	1,391,160
Uruguay	2,834,693	9,727,969	9,985,584	93,666	290,365	300,365
Vietnam	1,428,245	3,826,817	4,065,857	289,800	685,830	728,300

**LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –**

Argentina	2,527,727	9,158,421	9,495,329	152,370	467,422	474,716
Australia(*)	7,829	105,644	106,884	0	0	0
Austria	72,658	629,356	670,528	1,847	18,320	19,639
Brazil	2,179,697	7,725,105	8,019,053	189,900	617,838	647,058
Bulgaria	21,917	74,772	79,949	0	0	0
Burma	979,500	2,403,174	2,558,068	0	0	0
Canada	1,728	9,540	9,676	0	0	0
China	58,500	140,400	149,652	0	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	76,800	220,032	220,034	0	0	0
Croatia	1,680	14,824	15,188	384	3,710	3,844
Denmark(*)	12,612	112,560	117,560	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	440,350	1,390,174	1,449,171	2,232	6,880	7,680
Ethiopia(*)	20,880	88,740	91,275	0	0	0
France(*)	394	7,648	7,739	0	0	0
Germany(*)	284,138	1,431,848	1,504,261	0	0	0
Greece	7,237	48,855	51,779	290	2,229	2,410
Hong Kong	13,680	90,326	91,915	0	0	0
India	13,858,438	42,600,642	44,317,559	1,339,857	3,835,265	3,944,650
Israel(*)	1,363	8,225	8,493	0	0	0
Italy(*)	8,843	146,243	149,968	2,239	23,762	24,329
Jamaica	15,259	145,200	152,700	0	0	0
Kuwait	2,779	24,689	27,196	0	0	0
Mexico	462,239	1,503,790	1,511,951	93,450	220,308	222,503
New Zealand(*)	266	10,431	11,431	0	0	0
Pakistan	5,774	26,936	29,630	0	0	0
Poland	1,714	11,615	13,355	364	4,351	4,861
Saudi Arabia	1,327	16,992	17,507	0	0	0
Spain	27,163	226,311	232,594	1,600	13,618	13,808
Switzerland(*)	492	2,595	2,596	0	0	0
Taiwan	1,726,479	3,905,832	4,074,452	191,400	421,080	443,580



Thailand	7,063,388	17,788,462	18,782,269	580,800	1,463,254	1,527,140
Turkey	4,596,060	13,388,280	14,607,282	465,000	1,413,600	1,538,600
Ukraine	742,654	2,346,682	2,442,781	37,760	105,440	113,212
Uruguay	3,467,385	11,219,185	11,410,184	151,986	493,061	505,801
Vietnam	29,328,769	81,579,479	85,326,463	2,353,039	6,064,751	6,346,512

**NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---**

Albania	408	3,600	4,045	0	0	0
Argentina	244,165	813,630	848,772	0	0	0
Australia(*)	94	2,419	2,539	0	0	0
Belarus	399	2,066	3,466	0	0	0
Brazil	18,791	65,617	70,944	0	0	0
Bulgaria	2,937	21,574	22,903	2,937	21,574	22,903
Canada	72,641	256,268	267,241	9,579	50,045	50,395
Dominican Republic	566,636	1,515,768	1,571,377	81,701	216,232	224,262
Egypt	4,474	21,900	23,366	0	0	0
France(*)	4,081	61,538	63,624	240	3,216	3,419
Germany(*)	876	9,900	11,105	0	0	0
Greece	24,861	188,803	200,557	0	0	0
India	150,554	470,331	492,674	51,200	129,118	134,946
Indonesia	142,100	379,610	397,110	0	0	0
Israel(*)	5,930	15,764	16,341	0	0	0
Italy(*)	12,813	170,624	176,441	3,192	48,231	50,192
Jamaica	419	4,500	5,951	0	0	0
Lithuania	3,487	16,781	17,689	0	0	0
Mexico	347,353	1,302,846	1,311,480	15,005	55,316	56,036
Moldova	3,535	6,315	7,354	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	738,618	8,648,829	8,832,384	15,407	288,750	293,637
Pakistan	1,338	6,150	6,960	0	0	0
Poland	26,678	134,384	146,558	1,426	16,468	17,517
Russia	40,722	192,930	204,459	300	6,396	7,214
Saudi Arabia	5,319	55,706	57,224	0	0	0
Spain	10,258	68,105	71,791	500	4,825	4,916
Sudan(*)	2,650	11,290	14,176	0	0	0
Sweden	480	4,132	4,381	480	4,132	4,381
Taiwan	560,416	1,560,609	1,645,448	0	0	0
Turkey	1,419	7,996	11,749	0	0	0
Ukraine	96,397	279,319	296,414	19,200	39,360	43,296
United Kingdom	19,187	102,344	112,579	8,900	38,357	42,193
Uruguay	54,840	52,204	60,704	0	0	0
Vietnam	2,688,188	7,089,931	7,479,372	495,508	1,256,489	1,361,327

**COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –**

Argentina	11,295	49,746	52,445	0	0	0
Australia(*)	30	2,154	3,654	0	0	0
Austria	7,261	83,974	89,152	0	0	0
Brazil	14,502	110,094	112,430	0	0	0
Bulgaria	132,530	466,732	494,052	14,715	51,814	54,650
Canada	90,415	695,200	698,108	19,897	152,642	153,017
Chile	1,184	7,535	8,235	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	10,837	48,359	51,661	0	0	0
Egypt	13,249	24,159	25,927	0	0	0
France(*)	366,203	1,717,885	1,794,278	30,445	135,289	141,853
Germany(*)	267,089	1,337,458	1,396,719	0	0	0

Greece	54,244	585,150	611,213	13,429	168,545	175,953
Guatemala	10,680	36,450	41,030	0	0	0
Hungary	77,291	585,438	612,012	11,880	124,080	128,580
India	719,656	2,217,601	2,313,967	20,060	59,177	61,677
Israel(*)	4,315	24,323	24,900	0	0	0
Italy(*)	25,588	286,814	294,346	2,573	29,848	30,358
Kazakhstan	697	3,483	3,831	0	0	0
Lebanon	2,850	21,060	21,954	0	0	0
Lithuania	8,426	36,055	39,661	0	0	0
Mexico	20,975	91,366	96,593	0	0	0
Moldova	2,338	3,060	3,491	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	978,861	8,884,324	9,001,548	105,891	940,231	952,306
Pakistan	3,053	11,194	11,869	0	0	0
Poland	24,807	100,975	107,371	1,756	11,023	11,411
Portugal	34,488	217,764	226,830	2,608	14,905	15,354
Russia	71,839	316,112	347,907	18,415	73,428	80,771
Saudi Arabia	3,087	27,317	27,576	0	0	0
Serbia	8,479	64,407	68,331	899	6,181	6,786
Spain	128,665	883,097	919,849	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	14,360	103,885	109,219	782	12,843	13,621
Taiwan	102,081	204,029	215,641	15,079	46,372	47,633
Turkey	109,442	730,200	755,197	0	0	0
Ukraine	61,832	167,251	182,522	7,990	23,985	26,335
United Arab Emirates	908	5,400	5,607	0	0	0
United Kingdom	171	3,671	3,672	0	0	0

**FLAVORED HONEY –**

Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	2,069	17,007	18,448	0	0	0
Canada	14,420	151,546	154,700	2,452	12,436	14,145
China	11,223	64,671	66,574	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	10,884	50,220	50,573	10,884	50,220	50,573
El Salvador	2,309	9,070	10,619	0	0	0
Finland	73	14,130	14,298	0	0	0
France(*)	8,960	289,030	293,266	0	0	0
Germany(*)	10,200	34,082	36,232	0	0	0
India	90,932	200,870	211,628	7,169	16,417	17,486
Ireland	1,692	15,898	18,061	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,825	88,758	90,665	175	3,753	3,877
Japan	180	22,877	22,977	0	0	0
Korea, South	257,248	4,157,334	4,248,791	27,035	450,526	456,214
Lebanon	240	3,600	3,744	0	0	0
Mexico	221,650	2,137,110	2,150,176	10,094	103,932	104,829
New Zealand(*)	162	24,399	24,850	0	0	0
Pakistan	1,387	3,725	3,887	0	0	0
Poland	880	3,179	3,396	0	0	0
Russia	2,778	8,658	9,612	0	0	0
Spain	739	5,238	6,252	0	0	0
Taiwan	44,159	144,983	151,811	4,482	7,211	7,508
Thailand	116,589	507,561	521,780	0	0	0
Turkey	915	4,744	4,855	0	0	0

**ORGANIC HONEY –**

Argentina	254,066	1,139,920	1,208,319	0	0	0
Australia(*)	18,480	145,825	153,246	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	265	3,494	3,658	0	0	0
Brazil	10,587,277	40,020,577	41,489,246	866,985	2,903,615	3,033,049
Canada	115,200	739,107	748,977	6,966	17,640	17,719
Cyprus	850	5,469	5,941	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	449	3,648	3,924	0	0	0

Ghana	9,000	61,020	61,208	0	0	0
Greece	1,138	14,963	15,786	178	2,282	2,882
India	144,000	417,222	428,665	18,600	57,660	60,660
Italy(*)	10,753	106,887	110,949	560	7,844	8,091
Mexico	103,596	423,044	437,980	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	20,029	222,538	228,902	700	10,400	10,624
South Africa	980	6,890	7,140	980	6,890	7,140
Spain	190	2,301	2,302	0	0	0
Taiwan	38,280	84,982	85,082	0	0	0
Thailand	18,000	46,045	48,830	0	0	0
Ukraine	334,288	1,090,404	1,144,614	0	0	0
Uruguay	37,270	134,845	141,845	0	0	0
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	163,397,563	554,096,926	574,192,738	11,807,659	36,404,435	37,783,298

**Notes:**

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
3. (\*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.
4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure.  
QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
6. Product Group : Harmonized